



## Croft Playgroup Newsletter April and May 2024



Thinking about

**“How we want the world to be”**

focusing on:

- ❖ Being listened to and feeling valued,
- ❖ Being encouraged and allowed to make our own choices,
  - ❖ Valuing each other’s similarities and differences,
  - ❖ Understanding how to be healthy in mind and body,
  - ❖ Being independent.

### Contact details

*We’re always pleased to hear from you*

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**Find us on Facebook too:** Croft Playgroup, Swindon

We hope that everyone has a wonderful Easter break and look forward to welcoming you all back for the term ahead! Hopefully we'll have drier weather and all be feeling better!

## **Being Healthy!**

- During term 5 we begin to explore the theme of 'Being Healthy'.
- Through play and circle time sessions we think and talk about how we can be healthy in mind and body.
- We use picture books to help us reflect on and celebrate our similarities and differences, and ways that we can treat each other with kindness and respect.
- Learning about the cultures and practices of our playgroup families is another way to value each other. Previously we have learnt about the Lunar New Year, the Swedish Midsummer festival, the Spanish festival of the Three Kings, the Hindu festival Vasant Panchami, the Turkish festival of independence and the Hungarian 'Santa day' celebration. ***Please let us know if there are celebrations coming up that you take part in as a family which we can learn about at playgroup.***
- We also focus on how we care for our bodies including caring for our teeth.
- We use large 'floor books' to record comments and ideas from circle time discussions.
- The week beginning Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May will be 'Walk to Playgroup week' during which we encourage everyone to walk, scoot or cycle to playgroup. We will think and talk about how we keep our bodies healthy and the value and effects of exercise.
- Walk to Playgroup week will finish with a Sponsored Walk event in the garden. The children will be able to tackle different obstacle courses and activities as they complete circuits of the garden. This is a great way to further emphasise the importance of movement and exercise. More info to follow.

## **Responsibility and risk taking to boost esteem and camaraderie**

- As part of their play (and often specifically part of outdoor play) the children will take bigger risks and try new things. It is essential for their physical and fully rounded development that they are able to do this.
- They also need to move and climb to develop their core strength which will prepare them for more sitting, listening and focused fine motor tasks as they progress at school.
- Our support of the children is also informed by what we know about the importance of reflex integration, postural control and opportunities to move. Our training day at the end of March will focus on learning more activities that we can teach the children on a regular basis to further strengthen the connections between their brains and bodies.
- We will continue to challenge the children to think and explore as they use resources both indoors and outside. The use of tools will also continue to encourage them to fine tune their coordination, control, communication and problem solving skills. It's been wonderful to see their focus and concentration and the creations they've made.
- General risk taking and striving to achieve new skills is a wonderful boost to children's self-esteem as they discover what they are capable of, but it can result in more injuries. Children usually work within their levels of confidence and try new things only when they feel comfortable and capable of doing so.
- We will, of course, always try to ensure the children's safety and ensure that the risks are carefully managed. If you would like to read more about play and risk, there is a useful pdf document on the Health and Safety Executive website: [Microsoft Word - Document2 \(hse.gov.uk\)](#)
- We also encourage the children to help us in taking on responsibility for 'jobs' around playgroup. This can involve helping adults to check the garden and equipment is clear and ready for play (the children always enjoy wielding litter pickers!), checking that everyone has remembered to put up their registration leaves, checking we have enough paper towels and tissues in the rooms, helping

to sweep the floors and wipe the tables, thinking of exciting activity ideas. Children often enjoy a role of responsibility and a feeling that they are helping to do a 'grown up' job; those who are due to start school in September are often particularly ready for that feeling of extra responsibility.

### **Keep talking!**

- Listening to your children and talking to them about what they are doing or interested in is a vital way to support language development, understanding and communication.
- Children are learning constantly and picking up what is being said around them. The more you are able to spend time sharing stories or activities or talking to your child as you walk together or on trips to the park or supermarket, the more you will support their speech and language.
- If your child mispronounces words, the best response is to just repeat back what they've said with the correct pronunciation; asking them to repeat it correctly can be embarrassing and make children more likely to clam up.
- If you'd like further support or information, please feel welcome to pop in to see us.

### **Events this term**

It is important that we seek to provide a variety of enriching experiences for the children, so in the term ahead we have various things in the pipeline which include those listed below:

- **Zumba** sessions will resume every Thursday at 9:30am starting on the 18<sup>th</sup> April;
- A visit from **Dinky Ponies** on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May;
- **A Sponsored walk event** to promote exercise and healthy bodies (more information to follow);
- **Parents reading week** - come in and foster our love of reading by sharing a favourite book with the children.
- **Baking bread!** We have some bread mixes called "Kitty's Kits" which we will use with the children at playgroup to make our own loaves, but we also have enough to send a kit home with the children. We hope that you'll enjoy having a go at baking a loaf at home (if you don't already).

Where possible we try to rotate activities across the year so that all children have the opportunity to experience them. If you are concerned that your child will miss out on an event, you are welcome to bring them in and stay with them so that they can participate. Do let us know if you'd like to do this.

### **Spring and Summer Weather**

- Please remember to send the children in with appropriate footwear to cope with playing both inside and outside! It is likely to still be muddy underfoot, but we are hoping that the weather will warm up for us.
- The children will need to have sun cream applied before they arrive at playgroup.
- We supply Ambre Solaire Sensitive cream for children, factor 50 sun cream and will reapply throughout the day. If your child needs a different sun cream due to skin sensitivity or allergies we ask that you complete a form that we can give you supply that for our use.
- We will supply the children with their own individual summer hats which are named, washed frequently and kept in their drawers.

**Please remember to label everything that belongs to the children so we are better able to keep track of everyone's belongings.**

***As always if there is anything you would like to talk more about please feel welcome to make contact in the usual ways.***

## Dates for the Term 5...

Beginning 15 <sup>th</sup> April, then every Thursday	<b>Zumba</b>	Starting at 9:30am – sessions in each room
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	<b>Smiles Photography!</b> More details to follow. If you're child isn't in, you will have the opportunity to bring them in for a photograph.	Professional photographs of the children (especially those starting school in September) taken throughout the day.
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Oak Room Spring songs!</b>	2pm Parents and Carers are welcome to join us to hear their children sing!
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Show and Tell</b>	Children in on that day can bring in something to show or tell us about something special.
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Bank Holiday</b>	<i>Playgroup is closed.</i>
Week beginning 6 <sup>th</sup> May – every day	<b>Parent's Reading Week</b> A chance to come in to read a story to the children at circle time.	<b>10.45am &amp; 2.45pm</b> <i>Please email the office if you'd like to come in to read a story</i>
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Dinky Ponies</b> <i>Visits are being rotated to ensure that all children have the chance to meet the ponies throughout the year.</i>	<b>10:30am</b> All children will be able to come to meet the ponies and groom them.
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Bring a family member to preschool day</b>	<b>10am to 11am and 1:30pm to 2:30pm</b> <i>Please email to let us know if you would like to come in to play.</i>
Week beginning Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Walk to playgroup week</b>	All are encouraged to walk, cycle or scoot to playgroup!
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	<b>Committee Meeting</b>	<b>6pm</b> at playgroup <b><i>All parents and carers welcome to attend.</i></b>
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Our Sponsored Walk event</b> Raising funds for playgroup resources	Children to complete laps of the garden with obstacle courses and different activities
	<b>**Last day of term**</b>	<b>Finish at normal time</b>